

Captain Whiting House, now Y.M.C.A.
337 East Main Street
Norwich
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-250

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

CAPTAIN WHITING HOUSE, NOW Y.M.C.A.

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Street Address: 337 East Main Street, Norwich, New London County,
Connecticut

Present Owner
and Occupant: Young Men's Christian Association

Present Use: Various Y.M.C.A. uses--recreation center, offices,
meeting rooms, hotel, etc.

Brief Statement
of Significance: Built about 1827, this frame house preserves an
interesting Greek Revival facade.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built for Captain Whiting; subsequently owned by Avery Smith; then Mrs. S. B. Case (daughter of Avery Smith).
2. Date of erection: About 1827.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The ell to the east connecting the house with the neighboring house is later. When the Y.M.C.A. purchased the building, some changes were made to the exterior and the interior was completely changed. The original front door was in the left-hand (or east) bay of the front and has been replaced with a window. The doorway had pineapple carvings and Ionic columns, which were removed. The door opened to a hall with a circular mahogany stairway. The second floor bedrooms opened onto a balcony at the head of the stair. On the first floor the house had large, double parlors. Originally there were wide board floors, and plaster walls and ceilings with elaborate centerpieces in the ceilings. The house was heated by eight fireplaces, now removed, with coal-burning grates. In the back yard, a bridge over the railroad tracks led to gardens on the Shetucket River. The original flagstone walks, the carriage shed and barn, and the woodshed have been removed.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Captain Whiting, the original owner, was an engineer who designed a suspension bridge. A model of the bridge was sent to Russia and a copy of the bridge erected over the Neva.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a Greek Revival house with a notable facade.

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2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Layout and orientation: This is a two-story rectangular building connected by an ell to an adjacent house. The front on the street, which originally contained the entrance, is the north side of the building.
2. Foundations: Cut granite.
3. Wall construction: Frame structure with clapboards on the sides and flush siding on the facade. The facade is divided into three bays by four, flat, fluted Ionic pilasters.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The Greek Revival front doorway with pilasters, carved Ionic columns, and a carved pineapple over the center has been removed.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Six-over-six light, double-hung windows. Shutter hardware is in place but the shutters are missing. Window frames are plain and unrelieved except on the second floor, where facade windows have pilaster trim.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, covered with tin. The gable end with an oval window is placed toward the street and forms a pediment over the pilastered facade.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves with crown mold, modillion course bed mold, Ionic frieze and architrave.
6. Chimneys: Three brick chimneys with eight fireplaces.

C. Technical Description of Interior: The original interior has been completely altered to accommodate the present use. For the original interior appearance, see Part I.A.3.

D. Site: In its present setting, the house is on a crowded lot at the edge of the business district on a busy street.

Prepared by Raymond B. Case
12 Mediterranean Lane
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